



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **APRIL 23, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montaña led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montaña
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Rita Hall

Staff

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bacio, and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 16, 2008 were approved, with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on the following three (3) articles and a meeting she attended:

- “Child Care Audit Alarms L.A.”, Los Angeles Times, April 18, 2008, regarding a State audit that revealed 49 instances of convicted sex offenders living at the same addresses as child-care facilities and foster homes.
- “Watching The Guards”, Daily Breeze, April 20, 2008, regarding the necessity of security cameras being used to monitor jailers, as well as inmates at detention facilities.
- “Smothering Deaths of Babies Rise”, Daily Breeze, April 23, 2008, regarding the increase of incidents of babies being smothered, due to parents taking their babies to bed with them.

The Audit Committee meeting was held on April 16, 2008 to discuss the thirty-three group homes that are facing closure.

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Cannella, and unanimously carried, a letter will be drafted to the Auditor-Controller to conduct a formal investigation on the closing of thirty-three (33) group homes by the Department of Children and Family Services.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission’s Charitable Fund is \$1,498.23.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Commission Services, gave the following report:

- Ms. Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing, sent an e-mail stating that the San Gabriel Children’s Center has submitted a plan of correction indicating they will keep their client’s files at the facility. Life Books on children are not required by Title 22.
- The 10th Annual County of Los Angeles Multicultural Conference will be held on May 15, 2008, at the Los Angeles Hilton in Universal City.

INVITED GUEST, MS. MARCIA GOODMAN, FOREPERSON, CIVIL GRAND JURY

Ms. Marcia Goodman, Foreperson of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury, gave the following report:

- In 2000, Los Angeles County bifurcated the Criminal and Civil Juries. Most counties have combined Criminal and Civil Grand Juries.
- The Civil Grand Jury consists of 23 members. Members of the Civil Grand Jury volunteer and commit to a term of one (1) year. Because of the long-term commitment most members are of the demographic of fifty (50) years of age and older.

- The Criminal Grand Jury members are selected from a pool and only serve on a monthly basis. Because the commitment isn't on a long-term basis, the members are usually much younger than the Civil Grand Jury.
- The Civil Grand Jury investigates local government, which includes any agency that's under close scrutiny from topical situations. The jurors nominate topics, with a vote of 14 out of 23 jurors to pass for approval, and the eight approved choices with the most votes are chosen for investigation. Then, County Counsel is contacted to advise them regarding guidelines of their investigation.
- The findings after the Jurors' investigation is published in a report at the end of their term. The report is accessible to the public, and can be accessed via their website.
- The report is published and is under strict confidentiality rules. Jurors cannot divulge or discuss their findings prior to the publication of the report.
- Grand Jurors speak to jailers and inmates; during the inspections, they check for safety, cleanliness, health concerns, and completeness of facility records.
- The District Attorney's office has occasionally recommended facilities for investigation to the Grand Jury.

Commissioner Cannella joined the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

DISCUSSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Commissioner Bacio will be receiving a scholarship application from his prospective candidate later in the week and will bring it to the next Commission meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM APRIL 16, 2008 TO APRIL 22, 2008

Allen's Teen Center – 2, #5 – Commissioner Hammargren

The facility was visited on April 17, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: DCFS is sending clients that should be RCL levels 10-12 to home which is an RCL level 6-8 group home.

Journey House – 31, #5 – Commissioner Stathatos

The facility was visited on April 17, 2008, and no one was home.

Moore's Cottage – 39, #1 – Commissioner Stathatos

The facility was visited on April 18, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Counseling & Research Associate/Masada Home – 25, #5 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on April 21, 2008, and no one was home.

Los Angeles Youth Network – 35, #2 – Commissioners Bacio and Moore

The facility was visited on April 22, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Food supply was low.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Moore voiced concerns that a representative from the Internal Services Department has not been present at the Business Meetings.

On motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren, and unanimously carried, a letter will be drafted to the Acting Director of the Internal Services Department to request that Mr. Timothy Braden or a suitable representative attend Business Meetings on a regular basis.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division